poor people below the poverty line would be a little more.

But, nonetheless, the number is going down over the years. It will be 33 per cent according to some method and according to some other method it may be 36 to 37 per cent. But it is going down. Therefore, my submission is that poverty alleviation is very much on the agenda of the Eighth Plan and a large number of programmes and schemes have been formulated for this purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhupinder Singh Mann.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Sir, the Government....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Import of Edible Oil

*481. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI V. GOPALASAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import edible oil;

(b) if so, the quantity of edible oils proposed to be imported with cost in foreign exchange;

(c) the domestic production of edible oils during 1993 and the estimated production by the end of the year 1994;

(d) the extent to which the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils is anticipated to be met with the imports; and

(e) the overall impact on the domestic prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The decision to import palmolein has already been taken by the Government. However, the quantity and foreign exchange involved in import will be decided at the time of actual imports in the coming months depending upon the prices of edible oils in the country, its demand and supply in the market, etc.

(c) The likely production of edible oils during 1993-94 will be around 61.5 lakh M.Ts. No estimates have been worked out for the production by the end of the year 1994.

(d) At present, the gap between the demand and supply of edible oils is of the order of six to seven lakh tonnes and imported oil will supplement the availability of edible oils and reduce the gap to the extent of imported quantity.

(e) Imports of edible oil are likely to have a sobering effect on the prices in the open market as also make available palmolein at cheaper rates to consumers under PDS.

कोयला उत्पादन

*482. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में कोयले की मांग तथा वास्तविक उत्पादन का वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) कोयले के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं अथवा उठाए जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) देश में इस समय कोयले के उत्पादन का राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) योजना आयोग द्वारा